

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system for extending unattended control
2 capabilities for a video receiver comprising:

3 a shell for executing scripts controlling
4 demodulation of broadcast programming; and

5 a memory containing at least one script including
6 a sequence of commands for demodulating selected broadcast
7 programming, wherein the at least one script is executable
8 by the shell to select broadcast programming for demodul-
9 ation from among one or more concurrently airing programs
10 each matching at least one of a plurality of user-specified
11 descriptive criteria, wherein said at least one script
12 employs associated previously-defined user priorities or
13 conditions to select between conflicting matches or routing
14 options.

1 2. The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the at
2 least one script identifies the selected broadcast
3 programming by at least one of:

4 one or more channels on which the selected
5 broadcast programming is to be broadcast and one or more
6 time periods during which the selected broadcast
7 programming is to be broadcast;

8 a title of the selected broadcast programming;
9 and

10 keywords describing the selected broadcast
11 programming.

1 3. The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the at
2 least one script, when executed by the shell, controls
3 operation of the video receiver to cause a sequence of
4 programs broadcast during separate contiguous time periods
5 on different channels to be demodulated and displayed by
6 the video receiver.

1 4. The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the at
2 least one script, when executed by the shell, controls
3 operation of the video receiver to cause the selected
4 broadcast programming to be demodulated and transmitted to
5 a recording device.

1 5. The system as set forth in Claim 4 wherein the at
2 least one script, prior to causing the selected broadcast
3 programming to be demodulated and transmitted to a
4 recording device, checks for previous demodulation and
5 transmission of the selected broadcast programming to the
6 recording device, wherein execution of the at least one
7 script is terminated if the selected broadcast programming
8 was previously demodulated and transmitted to the recording
9 device.

1 6. The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the at
2 least one script is received by the video receiver together
3 with a broadcast programming stream including the selected
4 broadcast programming.

1 7. The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the at
2 least one script is received by the video receiver from an
3 external source separate from a broadcast programming
4 stream including the selected broadcast programming.

1 8. A video receiver comprising:
2 an input for receiving broadcast programming; and
3 a scripting system for extending unattended
4 control capabilities for the video receiver, the scripting
5 system comprising:
6 a shell for executing scripts controlling
7 demodulation of broadcast programming; and
8 a memory containing at least one script
9 including a sequence of commands for demodulating
10 selected broadcast programming, wherein the at least
11 one script is executable by the shell to select
12 broadcast programming for demodulation from among one
13 or more concurrently airing programs each matching at
14 least one of a plurality of user-specified descriptive
15 criteria, wherein said at least one script employs
16 associated previously-defined user priorities or
17 conditions to select between conflicting matches or
18 routing options.

1 9. The video receiver as set forth in Claim 8
2 wherein the at least one script identifies the selected
3 broadcast programming by one of:

4 one or more channels on which the selected
5 broadcast programming is to be broadcast and one or more
6 time periods during which the selected broadcast
7 programming is to be broadcast;

8 a title of the selected broadcast programming;
9 and

10 keywords describing the selected broadcast
11 programming.

1 10. The video receiver as set forth in Claim 8
2 wherein the at least one script, when executed by the
3 shell, controls operation of the video receiver to cause a
4 sequence of programs broadcast during separate contiguous
5 time periods on different channels to be demodulated and
6 displayed by the video receiver.

1 11. The video receiver as set forth in Claim 8
2 wherein the at least one script, when executed by the
3 shell, controls operation of the video receiver to cause
4 the selected broadcast programming to be demodulated and
5 transmitted to a recording device.

1 12. The video receiver as set forth in Claim 11
2 wherein the at least one script, prior to causing the
3 selected broadcast programming to be demodulated and
4 transmitted to a recording device, checks for previous
5 demodulation and transmission of the selected broadcast
6 programming to the recording device, wherein execution of
7 the at least one script is terminated if the selected
8 broadcast programming was previously demodulated and
9 transmitted to the recording device.

1 13. The video receiver as set forth in Claim 8
2 wherein the at least one script is received by the video
3 receiver via the input together with a broadcast
4 programming stream including the selected broadcast
5 programming.

1 14. The video receiver as set forth in Claim 8
2 wherein the at least one script is received by the video
3 receiver from an external source separate from a broadcast
4 programming stream including the selected broadcast
5 programming.

1 15. A method for extending unattended control
2 capabilities for a video receiver comprising:

3 executing, using a shell within the video
4 receiver, scripts controlling demodulation of broadcast
5 programming; and

6 storing, within a memory in the video receiver,
7 at least one script including a sequence of commands for
8 demodulating selected broadcast programming, wherein the at
9 least one script is executable by the shell to select
10 broadcast programming for demodulation from among one or
11 more concurrently airing programs each matching at least
12 one of a plurality of user-specified descriptive criteria,
13 wherein said at least one script employs associated
14 previously-defined user priorities or conditions to select
15 between conflicting matches or routing options.

1 16. The method as set forth in Claim 15 further
2 comprising:

3 identifying the selected broadcast programming
4 within the at least one script by one of:

5 one or more channels on which the selected
6 broadcast programming is to be broadcast and one or
7 more time periods during which the selected broadcast
8 programming is to be broadcast;

9 a title of the selected broadcast
10 programming; and

11 keywords describing the selected broadcast
12 programming.

1 17. The method as set forth in Claim 15 further
2 comprising:

3 executing the at least one script utilizing the
4 shell to control operation of the video receiver and cause
5 a sequence of programs broadcast during separate contiguous
6 time periods on different channels to be demodulated and
7 displayed by the video receiver.

1 18. The method as set forth in Claim 15 further
2 comprising:

3 executing the at least one script utilizing the
4 shell to control operation of the video receiver and cause
5 the selected broadcast programming to be demodulated and
6 transmitted to a recording device.

1 19. The method as set forth in Claim 18 further
2 comprising:

3 prior to causing the selected broadcast
4 programming to be demodulated and transmitted to a
5 recording device, checking for previous demodulation and
6 transmission of the selected broadcast programming to the
7 recording device, wherein execution of the at least one
8 script is terminated if the selected broadcast programming
9 was previously demodulated and transmitted to the recording
10 device.

1 20. The method as set forth in Claim 15 further
2 comprising:

3 receiving the at least one script at an input to
4 the video receiver together with a broadcast programming
5 stream including the selected broadcast programming.

1 21. The method as set forth in Claim 15 further
2 comprising:

3 receiving the at least one script at an input to
4 the video receiver from an external source separate from a
5 broadcast programming stream including the selected
6 broadcast programming.

1 22. A datastream for use with a video receiver
2 comprising:

3 a broadcast programming stream including selected
4 broadcast programming; and

5 at least one script including a sequence of
6 commands for causing the video receiver to demodulate the
7 selected broadcast programming for display or recording,
8 wherein the at least one script is executable by a shell
9 running within the video receiver.